

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 8. (canceled)

1           9. (new) An apparatus for applying a coating liquid to a  
2       web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus comprising:

3           a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending  
4       transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in  
5       and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending  
6       between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of  
7       the direction;

8           means for supplying the coating liquid to the chamber,  
9       thence through the slot to the flow face, and thence along the flow  
10      face and for dropping the liquid as a transversely extending and  
11      downwardly flowing curtain from an edge of the flow face onto the  
12      web;

13           a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper  
14      guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable  
15      complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in  
16      a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit  
17      liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely  
18      confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain; and

19           means for transversely positioning the edge guides and  
20      thereby adjusting the curtain width.

1           10. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2        wherein each edge guide further comprises a lower guide having an  
3        inner face aligned vertically with the face of the respective upper  
4        guide, the lower guides being fixed to and transversely  
5        displaceable with the respective upper guides.

1           11. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10,  
2        further comprising  
3           means at lower ends of the lower guides for aspirating  
4        the coating liquid.

1           12. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10,  
2        further comprising  
3           means for releasably securing the lower guides to the  
4        respective upper guides.

1           13. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 12  
2        wherein the releasable securing means includes finger-operable  
3        screws.

1           14. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2        wherein the flow-face edge is curved and fits with the upper guide  
3        element.

1                   15. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2       wherein the flow face inclines downward from the slot to the edge.

1                   16. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2       wherein the hopper has a supply passage opening generally centrally  
3       into the chamber, the supply means being connected via the passage  
4       to the chamber.

1                   17. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 16,  
2       further comprising:

3                   a pair of transversely spaced inserts each substantially  
4       blocking the slot and the chamber; and

5                   means for transversely displacing the inserts and thereby  
6       setting a transverse width of the chamber and slot.

1                   18. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 17,  
2       further comprising

3                   structure linking the inserts to the respective guides  
4       for joint transverse displacement therewith, the inserts having  
5       confronting inner faces aligned vertically with the faces of the  
6       upper guides.

1           19. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 18  
2       wherein the hopper includes end plates laterally flanking the  
3       inserts and the chambers, the structure including rods passing  
4       transversely through the end plates and having inner ends fixed to  
5       the inserts.

1           20. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9,  
2       further comprising  
3           means for lifting the upper guides off the flow face  
4       during transverse displacement of the upper guides.